

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 CA-01 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
COME-00 CU-04 /091 W
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R 201430Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5665
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 07375

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE, GW
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GAUS
- ON US-GDR RELATIONS

REF: A. BERLIN 7084, B. BERLIN 7086.

SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF A MEETING WITH FRG REPRESENTATIVE
GAUS, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER BRIEF HIM ON
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR LEADERS INCLUDING THE
CURRENT STATUS OF (A) CONSULAR CONVENTION, (B) CULTURAL
RELATIONS, (C) INFORMATION, (D) HUMANITARIAN CASES, AND
(E) TRADE. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GAUS CALLED ON ME
SEPTEMBER 19 AND SAID HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A STATE-
SECRETARY LEVEL MEETING IN BONN ON SEPTEMBER 20 REGARDING
THE WISCHNEWSKI-KOHL TALKS. GAUS SAID THAT THERE WAS NOT
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YET MUCH MOVEMENT IN THESE INNER-GERMAN DISCUSSIONS. HE
SUGGESTED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE BONN MEETING WAS TO
DEVELOP FURTHER STEPS TO MOVE THINGS FORWARD. THIS WAS
DIFFICULT AS THERE IS NO CLEAR-CUT APPROACH IN DEALING
WITH GDR PROBLEMS. IF THE GDR, FOR EXAMPLE, LOWERED THE
AGE FOR EMIGRATION IT WOULD PLEASE THE FRG; HOWEVER, SUCH
ACTION WOULD TEND TO BE DESTABILIZING AND LEAD TO

A TIGHTENING UP OF THE SYSTEM.

2. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF GAUS ON MY TALKS WITH CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS STOPH, GDR PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT SINDERMAN, CULTURAL MINISTER HOFFMANN, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KROLIKOWSKI, AND FOREIGN TRADE STATE SECRETARY BEIL. I TOLD GAUS THAT THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THESE EXCHANGES WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS MY INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH CHAIRMAN OF STATE COUNCIL HONECKER, FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SOELLE. STOPH, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS STRESSED THE GDR DESIRE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. STOPH HAD SAID THERE WAS COMMON AGREEMENT ON THIS WITHIN THE GDR. I TOLD GAUS THAT VIRTUALLY ALL GDR LEADERS SAW IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS BENEFICIAL BILATERALLY AND IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHENING PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION THROUGHOUT EUROPE. STOPH HAD MENTIONED UNTAPPED POSSIBILITIES AND THE MAY 15 AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH SPELLED OUT GDR IDEAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. CONSULAR CONVENTION. GAUS INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF OUR TALKS ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. I TOLD HIM THERE HAD NOT BEEN MUCH MOVEMENT SINCE MY BRIEFING REFTELS ON TALKS WITH FISCHER AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT. HOWEVER, GRUNERT HAD TOLD ME ON SEPTEMBER 16 THAT THE GDR NOW

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RECOGNIZES THAT THE U.S. POSITION ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE WAS DIFFERENT FROM "OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES" AND THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE A CONSULAR CONVENTION WITHOUT A NATIONALITY CLAUSE; HE HAD STATED THAT THE NATIONALITY ISSUE COULD BE HANDLED IN A SEPARATE NOTE OR "SOMETHING". I INFORMED GAUS THAT THE POLANSKY-KLOBES SOUNDINGS HAD NOT YET TAKEN PLACE. FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE AT THE UNGA. GAUS SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THIS MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE TOWARD THE END OF SEPTEMBER. I SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT INFORMED ME ABOUT THE DATE. I ASSURED GAUS WE WOULD KEEP HIM FULLY INFORMED ON FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

4. CULTURAL RELATIONS. I BRIEFED GAUS IN SOME DETAIL ON MY TALKS WITH CULTURAL MINISTER HOFFMANN. I HAD PRESSED HOFFMANN ON THE 1977 U.S. CULTURAL PLAN, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED. HOFFMANN HAD ATTRIBUTED THE LACK OF PROGRESS TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE GDR APPROVED A SIX-CITY TOUR FOR A MUSICAL GROUP. THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE FILM WEEK AND PAUL STRAND PHOTO EXHIBIT HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. I INFORMED GAUS THAT SINDERMAN AND OTHER GDR

OFFICIALS WERE VERY PROUD OF THE DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT; THEY HAD SPOKEN WARMLY ABOUT ROCKEFELLER'S ROLE IN PLANNING THIS EXHIBIT. GAUS COMMENTED THAT THE GDR WAS TRYING TO PORTRAY ITSELF ABROAD AS THE CITADEL OF TRUE GERMAN CULTURAL VALUES.

5. INFORMATION. I RECALLED BRIEFING GAUS ON MY CONVERSATION WITH GRUNERT ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR U.S. SPEECHES AND POLICY STATEMENTS DIRECT TO THE GDR END-USERS. THE PAO HAD LATER MET WITH THE HEAD OF THE PRESS DEPARTMENT; WE SEEM TO HAVE THE GREEN LIGHT BUT HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO PROBE THE LIMITS OF THIS APPARENT AFFIRMATIVE DECISION ON DISSEMINATION OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL.

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6. HUMANITARIAN CASES. I MENTIONED GDR ACTION ON HUMANITARIAN CASES WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GRUNERT. A MFA OFFICIAL HAD INFORMED US THAT ONE OF THE CASES HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN, DECISION WAS STILL PENDING ON ONE OTHER CASE; THE GDR CLAIMED TO HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE EMERGENCY VISITATION CASES. I INFORMED GAUS THAT THE EMBASSY WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ASCERTAINING THE CURRENT WISHES OF THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED.

7. TRADE. I TOLD GAUS THAT VIRTUALLY ALL GDR LEADERS HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF TRADE WITH

THE U.S. AND THEIR CONCERN ABOUT TRADE BARRIERS IN THE LIGHT
OF THE HUGE U.S. SURPLUS. GAUS INFORMED ME ABOUT A CABLE
FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INDICATING THAT THE GDR
HAD APPLIED FOR TWO TRADE ORGANIZATION OFFICES IN THE U.S.
I SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT INFORMED ME ABOUT SUCH APPLI-
CATIONS. (NOTE: STATE 224465 WAS NOT RECEIVED HERE UNTIL
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SEPTEMBER 20.) BOLEN

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